

**Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, October 22, 1817,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO PRESIDENT MONROE.

Private.

Nashville, October 22, 1817.

Dear Sir. I have received your friendly letter of the 27th Ult. and your letter of the 5th instt. They both reached me by this days mail. I have given them, as attentive a perusal, as my situation would permit, being on the eve of my departure to see my friend and Nephew Major Hutchings, who is very ill and despaired of near Huntsville, and has requested me to take to him his little and only Son about six years old. Under these circumstances, I have to request the indulgence of a few days, until my return to answer your letter of the 5th instt. However I must remark, that I can never abandon principle, be the personal consequences what they may. The causes which gave rise to my order of the 22nd April, being the improper interference of the Department of War, with a Topographical Engineer of my Division, after he had reported, and was ordered on duty by me, in open violation of the regulations of the Army of the U. States, page 91. which defines his duty, and makes him subordinate to the directions of the Commanding General—and also the act of the 24th April 1816, organizing the Genl. Staff—which I trust viewing your Constitutional duty “to see the Laws faithfully executed” in connection with your duty as Commander in Chief of the “Army and Navy” you cannot justify. These being remonstrated against by me to the sec of war, and fifty four days have'g elapsed without receiving an answer, and being an interference, that my duty as a commander of a Division compelled me to resist, these I say being withdrawn, as they were the basis of my order, I shall have no hesitation in

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withdrawing my Genl. order—and that rules and regulations m[a]y thereafter be adopted, which may tend to harmonize the Army and keep up subordination. I am induced from the conciliatory features of your letter to make these remarks—and that you may have the causes which gave rise to my order again before you, I enclose you a copy of my letter to the Act'g Secy. of War of the 14th of Jany. with the extracts of the Orders and instructions given by the Secy. of War to Majr. Long.

I would barely remark, that cases of necessity, creates their own rule, and where they really exist, forms an exception from the Genl. rule—altho' not expressed always implied—hence I have never complained of any order being issued in cases of necessity, when I was immediately advised thereof—nor is it a source of real complaint.

I shall await your answer to this letter, before I forward mine to your's of the 5th instt. Should the accomodation proposed not meet your wishes, you will please return this enclosed to me.

I am etc etc.